



A project of the Eden Mills Millpond Conservation Association Inc.

Media Release

Eden Mills Aiming To Be First 'Carbon Neutral' Community in North America

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EDEN MILLS, ONTARIO: The small village of Eden Mills is taking a big step forward for the continent in aiming to go carbon neutral. This Ontario village of 150 households will be the first village in North America to tackle climate change by aiming to emit no more carbon dioxide than it absorbs. Carbon dioxide is the major greenhouse gas contributing to global warming.

In preparation for a formal launch of the project on November 8, 2007 the residents of Eden Mills are putting together the building blocks for this significant undertaking. The Village has been inspired by the example of England's Ashton Hayes, a village which made headlines last year when it announced its intention to go carbon neutral.

The approach to achieving this ambitious goal will be to involve the entire community. Our focus will be to educate, communicate, measure results and have fun. This is a project of the Eden Mills Millpond Conservation Association Inc.

To begin, all participating households in the village will have an opportunity to measure their individual carbon footprint. This baseline survey will be conducted by students from the University of Guelph early next year.

With carefully targeted research, the Village will address effective and simple ways to reduce household carbon production, at the same time developing long-term projects which will benefit the entire village.

Every year, the footprint will be re-evaluated. The good news is that because carbon emissions result primarily from energy use, any reductions mean cost savings as well.

Resident, organizer and one of Canada's pioneer green architects Charles Simon says, "Every day the media, our friends, neighbours and colleagues talk increasingly about the perils of a warming planet. At the same time, we're confused about solutions to this apparently overwhelming problem."

Simon adds "Effective action and leadership have been famously slow in coming on the political front. We can't wait any longer for someone else to act."

Eden Mills organizer and owner of a straw bale house Libby Little, outlines the exciting partnerships that are in place. "Already our carbon neutral project has established working partnerships with researchers, professors and students at the University of Guelph, the local Township of Guelph-Eramosa, Wellington County 'Green Legacy' Project, Rockwood Centennial Public School, and we are in discussion with the Upper Grand District School Board on some additional projects."

www.goingcarbonneutral.ca

She adds, “Once we established our focus on concrete change, like-minded organizations were enthusiastic and ready to help turn this idea into reality.”

The November Launch will be the occasion to bring the community together to break a re-cycled pop bottle of elderflower champagne on the bow of this imaginative undertaking.

At the launch there will be announcements of specific plans for the first year of the project, introductions to the full roster of partners and projects already underway, and information and guidelines for the first steps residents can take to begin to reduce the carbon footprint of the village.

The Launch takes place on Thursday, November 8, 2007 at 7:00 p.m. in the Eden Mills Community Hall.